

IMPORTANT FROM NEW-ORLEANS.

The Rebel Attack on Baton Rouge.

THE ASSAULT LED BY BRECKINRIDGE.

SIX HOURS' FIGHTING.

Rebels Repulsed with Heavy Loss.

Gen. Williams Shot Through the Heart.

THE UNION LOSS ABOUT 800.

Rebels Firing from Their Houses.

Gen. Breckinridge Lost His Right Arm.

GEN. RUGGLES KILLED.

GEN. LOVELL REPORTED KILLED.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE RAM ARKANSAS.

DESTRUCTION OF DONALDSONVILLE.

COLLISION ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The steamship North Star, which left New-Orleans Aug. 10, at 3 p. m., arrived at this port on the 18th. She passed the steamships Ocean Queen and St. Mary's on the S. W. Pass bar, bound in. The steamships Rouse and Sawanee sailed on the 19th inst. at 9 a. m.

[The following is an extract from a letter written by a negro who saw 13 dead Rebels in one small corn-field after the fight at Baton Rouge.]

From 5,000 to 10,000 Rebels, under Gen. Breckinridge, attacked about 3,000 Union soldiers stationed on the outskirts of Baton Rouge, at 4 a. m. on Tuesday, Aug. 5.

The fight lasted until 10, when the Rebels were badly repulsed, and retreated in a rout.

Gen. Williams was shot through the heart while rallying his right wing, which was being driven in by superior numbers.

The Vermont regiment behaved badly, except its officers. The Colonel was killed. The 21st Indiana, 30th Massachusetts, 9th Connecticut, and 4th Wisconsin did most of the fighting, and nobly too.

Lieut. Col. Keith, 21st Indiana, was wounded through the right shoulder.

Adjutant Howe, 3d Massachusetts, was shot through both legs; may have to lose one by amputation.

Lieut. Norcross, from Lowell, of 30th Massachusetts, arose from his sick bed, joined his company in the thickest of the fight, and with his own hands saved one field-piece, about to be taken by the Rebels.

Many of our officers are wounded, and our total loss in killed, wounded, and missing is not yet accurately known; probably 300 will cover all.

The Rebel loss is very great, as witnessed by myself.

The Rebel wounded report Gen. Breckinridge with loss of right arm.

Gen. Ruggles killed; Gen. Clark wounded and taken prisoner; Col. Allen fatally wounded and taken prisoner; also Capt. Chun.

Gen. Lovell is reported killed, but it is probably his brother, as the General is thought to be in Richmond. One Rebel told me, I was amputating his leg, that the Rebels lost nearly 8,000, which, I think, is nearly correct.

Breckinridge sent a flag of truce for permission to bury his dead.

Nims's battery saved the day when two-thirds of its members were on the sick list.

The Secesh in Baton Rouge fired from their houses on our wounded as they were being brought in, consequently their houses were pulled down.

Breckinridge made a speech to his men the morning of the fight, and promised to have his hand playing in the State House by 9 a. m.

Dr. Bullington, a Rebel Surgeon, told his nigger Jack, if they got separated during the fight, to go directly to the State House, for he would surely be there by 9 o'clock. The "dark" kept his appointment, but the Doctor did not.

[We are permitted to publish an extract from a private letter to Chamberlain, Esq., of this city, in relation to the attack on the Union forces at Baton Rouge.]

U. S. BRANHAM WHITFIELD, Aug. 9, 1862.

It is with great pleasure that I now have the opportunity of writing to you. We have had quite a brisk and lively time here lately. Tuesday last we had a hard-fought battle. Our forces, numbering about 4,000 men, were suddenly surprised at about 4 o'clock a. m. that day, but they met the enemy with a will to conquer or die. The Rebel forces amounted to from 8,000 to 10,000 men. Our men fought them for six long hours, when the Rebels took flight, leaving their dead and wounded, to gether with their arms and other munitions of war in our hands. We lost one of our best commanders, Gen. Williams. Calm and fearless to the last, he met his death like a man and a soldier, and was beloved by all who knew him. The way the Rebels surprised us I will show you: they came down bearing an American flag and also a black flag. Gen. Williams rode up to them and inquired of their General what regiment they belonged to, and the meaning of that black flag? They replied: "None of your d—d business," and immediately opened fire, killing Gen. Williams at the first fire.

All honor to our brave troops. Instead of retreating in confusion, they began the conflict, when the Rebels came down in force and came near driving our troops into the river; but our boats immediately opened fire, causing the enemy to fall back. Our men followed in close pursuit, pouring grape and canister into the ranks of the Rebels, who did not stop retreating until they had got seven miles outside of the city. Our loss is about 250 killed, wounded, and missing. Their loss is between 300 and 400. We captured three Generals, one of whom had both his legs shot off—that was Gen. Lovell. Another Rebel General (Ruggles) was among the killed. It is awful to see a burying the dead, cart-load after cart-load coming down to go to their long home where there is no waking. We have been two and a half days collecting the dead and wounded. We also took two stand of colors.

The following from *The N. O. Delta* of the 19th inst. gives a pretty complete history of the battle of

Baton Rouge. We reproduce Col. Thomas W. Canby's report of the action:

HEADQUARTERS SECOND REGIMENT,
FIFTH CORPS, AUG. 6, 1862.

Captain: I have the honor to report, that on the 5th inst. was made early yesterday morning by a Confederate force of about ten regiments, under command of Major-General J. C. Breckinridge, and after a fight of four hours' duration and of great severity, the enemy were repulsed.

I regret to state that Brig-Gen. Williams was killed on the field by a rifle-ball through the chest.

During the battle our forces were obliged to retire about a quarter of a mile from our original position, and the enemy were able to occupy temporarily the camps of the 1st Indiana, 7th Vermont, and 14th Maine regiments, and to destroy much of our baggage and camp equipment. They were, however, driven out, but our numbers being much lessened by sickness, and the men on the field being much exhausted by fatigue and heat, it was deemed inexpedient to pursue.

I am unable as yet to give a report of our casualties, which, I am sorry to say, are considerable.

The enemy has retired several miles, and from all I can learn, is still retreating. I am expecting it possible they may receive reinforcements, and are disposing my troops in the strongest positions. Our force numbered less than 2,500; the enemy had at least 5,000, with 12 or 14 field-pieces, and some cavalry.

The ram Arkansas approached with the intention of engaging our gunboats, but grounded above the point, at a distance of about six miles, and today was engaged by the iron-clad Essex and the gunboat Albatross, and destroyed.

Included is a copy of a communication received by flag of truce from Major-Gen. J. C. Breckinridge, and my reply thereto. You will see by the latter that Breckinridge, Clark, and his aide-camp, have delivered themselves up as prisoners of war.

I have also fully 700 wounded prisoners, that were left on the field, also about 30 captured. I would like instructions as to the disposition you wish made of them. Some express a wish to be paroled.

Very respectfully,
THOMAS W. CANBY, Col. Commanding Post.

Capt. R. S. DAVIS, Assistant Adjutant General, Headquarters Department of the Gulf.

The following is the communication of Gen. Breckinridge to Col. Canby:

HEADQUARTERS CONFEDERATE FORCES IN THE FIELD,
BATON ROUGE, AUG. 6, 1862.

To the Commanding Officer of the U. S. Forces, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Sir: I have sent Major De Brier with a flag of truce, with the request that he will be allowed to attend to the burial of our dead who may have been left within your lines. Major De Brier is accompanied by a surgeon and a chaplain, and I have ordered Gen. Charles Clark, who has been supplied with money and clothing, and such other articles as may be convenient to his comfort.

Respectfully,
JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE, Major-General.

Col. Canby replied as follows:

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
BATON ROUGE, LA., AUG. 6, 1862.

General: In reply to your communication of the morning, under a flag of truce, I have the honor to say that we are now engaged in the burial of our dead within our lines, and that we shall soon have the new camp completed. We have taken the bodies of the dead and are being cared for by our surgeons. A friend of Gen. Clark's from this city, will attend to the burial of the dead.

Respectfully,
THOMAS W. CANBY, Col. Commanding Post.

Major-Gen. J. C. Breckinridge, Major-General.

The following is a copy of Gen. Butler's general order, announcing the death of Gen. Williams to the Department of the Gulf:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
NEW-ORLEANS, LA., AUG. 7, 1862.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 56.—The Commanding-General of the Department of the Gulf, in acknowledgment of the death of Brig-Gen. Thomas Williams, commanding Second Brigade in camp, at Baton Rouge.

The following is a copy of the division of the division of Major-General Williams, who was killed at Baton Rouge, and the destruction of the iron-clad Arkansas by Capt. Porter of the Navy, made sorrowful by the fall of our brave gallant General.

Gen. Williams graduated at West Point in 1837, at once joined the Fourth Artillery, in Florida, where he served with distinction. He was promoted to the rank of Major, and then to that of Lieutenant-Colonel, and finally to that of Colonel. He was a member of Gen. Scott's staff, and his life was that of a soldier devoted to his country's service. His country never saw him in a private life, and he was a devoted family man. He was a devoted family man. He was a devoted family man.

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on the edge of the town, and part of the Rebels marched through a large cemetery and protected themselves behind the tomb-stones. The Rebels prisoners acknowledge a loss of about 600 killed and wounded, with the loss of one of their guns. The 4th Wisconsin and 14th Maine regiments fought with great bravery. I was told on shore that Breckinridge was in command, and that his sword, scabbarded with his coat, was found on the field. While the fight was progressing our gunboats shelled the right and left wings of the enemy with terrific effect.

Horrible to relate, the transport Williams, after we left her, ran into the Onondaga as she was running up, and about 30 or 40 our wounded soldiers were drowned. The transport went down almost instantly after the collision. It is said that the pilot and Rebel prisoners were picked up with life preservers on. It is certain that the pilot ran into the Onondaga on purpose. At all events, the captain and pilot are in double-trouble, and I have no doubt that Gen. Butler will dig them up, as they deserve to be.

On the 5th, we went up the river in a few boats reconnoitering, and came to the Rebel lines, which were beyond range, so we returned. Several of our officers walked out to the battle-field in the evening, and although the dead were buried, the stench was horrid. The ground was covered with bayonets, cartridges, muskets, bullets, and shell.

On the 9th the Adjutant went to the inhabitants of Donaldsonville to leave the town, as he intended to lead the next day. He found the town in a state of confusion, and the streets were filled with dead and wounded. A few Rebels were seen in the town, and a few Rebels were seen in the town.

On the 10th we started down the river, stopped at Donaldsonville, fired a broadside of 50-caliber shells into the town, and then at a party on shore and fired the town in several places. The buildings were on fire, and before we left the Rebels were in a state of confusion, and the streets were filled with dead and wounded. A few Rebels were seen in the town, and a few Rebels were seen in the town.

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